

GRAND CALUMET RIVER RESTORATION FUND COUNCIL



PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003

I. Welcome & Introductions - Jim Smith, IDEM

Copies of 10/29 agenda and summary of the September 2003 meeting were distributed to all present. Welcome to the meeting and introductions of Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund (GCRRF) Council members present were made. Council members present included: Mike Mikulka (US EPA), Wayne Faatz (IDNR), Mary Ann Habeeb (IDEM), Dan Sparks (US FWS) and Jim Smith (IDEM). Other Council Agency staff present included Alex da Silva (IDEM) and Elizabeth McCloskey (US FWS). Eleven members of the public attended the meeting.

As a follow up from the September meeting, Jim Smith announced that a copy of the draft work plan submitted to the IDEM Voluntary Remediation Program for cleanup of the Hammond manufactured Gas Facility had been placed in the Hammond Public Library as requested.

II. Review of GCRRF Expenditures - US FWS & GCRRF Council

Dan Sparks passed out a spread sheet which explained all expenditures from the Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund. A copy of the spreadsheet is available on the GCRRF web site (<http://www.in.gov/idem/land/federal/nrda/grandcalumet/index.html>). To date a total of \$1,658,154.00 has been obligated for studies on the West Branch and Roxana Marsh and for administrative expenses of the GCRRF Council Agencies. All expenditures to date have come from interest earned on the initial settlements.

III. Initiation of Phase III - Alternatives Development NEPA Requirements - US FWS & GCRRF Council

Dan Sparks initiated a discussion on the need for GCRRF Council to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements. A proposal for publication of "A notice of intent to conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS)" in the federal registry with the public meetings being held by the GCRRF Council to serve as major components of "scoping meeting and subsequent public input" was presented. Extensive discussion about the need for an "EIS" versus simply doing an Environmental Assessment followed. Questions about the need

for NEPA compliance were asked and discussed. Some suggested that simply doing an EA was not acceptable and we should proceed directly to a complete EIS as we would be required to do this in the end anyway. In the end it was decided that the GCRRF Council would examine this issue further to determine the appropriate method of NEPA compliance.

IV. Example of Containment System for Sediment Removal - IDEM

Jim Smith presented a short discussion of a temporary containment system that was being proposed for a sediment removal action at an Indiana Superfund Site. Mr. Smith presented several slide depicting the use of "Portable Cofferdams" for blocking off portions of a stream so that "dredging in the dry" could occur, the use of the devices as temporary de-watering facilities in parking lots or other open spaces. All slides used in this brief presentation are locatd on the web site (see above for URL). The use of these devices versus the use of water-filled bladders, or metal or concrete structures was briefly presented and discussed. It was suggested that simply blocking culverts under some of the roads on the West Branch would be an effective and relatively inexpensive method of isolating some of the West Branch reaches, but would not work in other reaches.

It was suggested that the use of devices as temporary cofferdams would be too expensive as compared to other methods. This would be something that would have to be examined during the Alternatives Feasibility Analysis.

It was suggested that the GCRRF Council forget about the environmental components of sediment cleanup and just look at mechanical components of cleaning up the sediments. GCRRF Council members agreed that that would be nice, but not possible given rules and regulations governing environmental cleanups, even one that did not seem to fit under any of the standard agency cleanup programs.

V. Next Meeting - It was announced that the Hammond Public Library Community Room had been reserved for Tuesday, December 9, 2003 for the next meeting.